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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XA910

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Joint Habitat/MPA/Ecosystem Committee and Advisory Panel (AP) in January 2012 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200; fax: (508) 339-1040.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is for the Habitat Committee, Advisory Panel, and Plan Development Team (PDT) members, and other interested parties, to reach a common understanding of the Omnibus EFH Amendment management options as currently developed, and to provide suggestions on how to refine and improve upon

those options.

Agenda items include: (1) management alternatives related to deep-sea corals, and (2) management options related to adverse effects minimization, including recommendations about research areas. For each topic, Council staff, assisted by other PDT members as necessary, will present the range of options and answer questions, followed by roundtable discussion between Advisory Panel, Committee and PDT members. It is highly recommended that AP and other participants bring supporting information regarding suggested changes to management area boundaries and associated restrictions. Coral management will be discussed in the morning and adverse effects management and research areas will be addressed in the afternoon.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign

language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

Dated: December 27, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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